

Message Text

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43

ACTION AID-31

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 IGA-02 DRC-01 RSC-01 /050 W

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P 311140Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0717

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUWAIT 3656

FOR AID

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EAID, ECRE, KU

SUBJ: REIMBURSABLE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE: GOK REQUEST FOR HOUSING
ASSISTANCE

REF: A) KUWAIT 3453; B) STATE 186124

1. VERY MUCH APPRECIATE THOUGHTFUL AND POSITIVE REPLY TO OUR
REQUEST CONTAINED IN REF B. I PASSED GIST OF REF B TO ACTING
MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS, ABDULLA AL-GHANIM WHO POINTED OUT
THAT MOST IMMEDIATE REQUIREMENT IS TO DETERMINE ORGANIZATION,
OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES, AND SPECIFIC FUNCTIONS OF NEW HOUSING
BOARD. AL-GHANIM SAID GOK WOULD APPRECIATE ANY HELP THAT CAN
BE PROVIDED TO ACCOMPLISH THESE IMMEDIATE GOALS.

2. AL-GHANIM SAID HE WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE HAVE HOUSING EXPERT(S)
HERE IN KUWAIT BY MID-SEPTEMBER. HE MADE CLEAR GOK HOUSING
COMMITTEE MOST ANXIOUS GET STARTED, AND THEREFORE HOLY MONTH
OF RAMADAN (ABOUT SEPT 17 TO OCT 20, INCLUDING FEAST) WAS NOT
RPT NOT A FACTOR.

3. WE RECOMMEND THAT SMALL TEAM BE SELECTED TO COME TO KUWAIT
TO DISCUSS SETTING UP HOUSING BOARD AND RELATED SUBJECTS.
AID OFFICE OF HOUSING MAY WISH TO USE OCCASION TO SEND
REPRESENTATIVE TO REVIEW MORE GENERAL REQUIREMENTS AND TO DISCUSS
POSSIBLE MODALITIES FOR COOPERATION. WISH ALSO TO NOTE THAT
MEMBER OF HOUSING BOARD, MOHAMMED ALI MOHMOUD, AN ENGINEER
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IN MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS WILL BE IN WASHINGTON IN OCTOBER

IN CONNECTION WITH FHWA PROGRAM. HE WOULD LIKE TO MEET
SELCTED HOUSING OFFICIALS AT THAT TIME AND WE AGREE THAT THIS
COULD BE IN OUR INTEREST.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS NO PROBLEMS WITH GENERAL APPROACH
DESCRIBED PARA 2, REF B. BELIEVE HOWEVER, THAT KUWAITIS WILL
INITIALLY NEED EVEN MORE BASIC ASSISTANCE SUCH AS THAT DESCRIBED
ABOVE. AT ONE POINT WE MOST LIKELY WILL WANT TO CARRY OUT STEPS
DESCRIBED PARA 2, REF B. FOR NOW, HOWEVER, MOST IMPORTANT
REQUIREMENT IS TO GET COOPERATIVE EFFORT UNDERWAY AND KUWAITIS
HAVE INDICATED THAT FIRST PRIORITY IS ORGANIZING HOUSING BOARD
ITSELF. AS THAT IS COMPLETED MORE SUBSTANTIVE ASPECTS CAN
BE REVIEWED.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: APPRECIATE DEPT'S STRONG EFFORTS ARRANGE
FOR HOUSING TEAM COME TO KUWAIT BY MID-SEPT TO HELP GOK BEGIN
ON THIS VERY SIGNIFICANT PROGRAM.
STOLTZFUS

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